Development Centre at Bangalore to cater to the Design and Technical guidance need to Southern Region including the State of Andhra Pradesh.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

Contract farming for cotton

4504. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to introduce contract farming for cotton;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with name of the States where it would be tried in the first instance; and

(c) the steps taken to provide quality seeds to farmers in order to ensure quality cotton in the catchment areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR): (a) and (b) The Government is facilitating introduction of integrated cotton cultivation in order to reduce uncertainty of income of cotton growers and to improve the availability of quality cotton to the textile industry. A national level seminar was held on May 4, 2002 at Hyderabad to promote linkages among the growers and the industry. As an extension to its 'Village Adoption Programme', the Cotton Corporation of India Ltd. (CCI) has signed Memorandum of Understandings (MoU) with farmers of Taroda and Jamidi villages in Adilabad District of Andhra Pradesh, on experimental basis for the next cotton season 2002-03 (October—September). Super Spinning Mill of Coimbatore has signed MoU with the farmers of Coimbatore district of Tamil Nadu. Further Apacchi Cotton Co., Polachi, Coimbatore, has also signed MoU with a group of Tibetan farmers of Karnataka.

(c) To provide quality cotton seeds to farmers Government gives assistance, for:—

- Production of breeder, foundation and certified seeds;
- Distribution of certified seeds;
- Establishment of seed delinting plants;
- Maintenance of Nucleus and Breeder seeds.